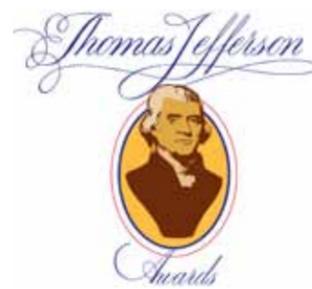




# CHEVRON

AND THE WESTERN RECRUITING REGION



Winner of the 2011  
Thomas Jefferson Award  
For Excellence in Print Journalism

Vol. 73 – Issue 6

“WHERE MARINES ARE MADE”

FRIDAY, MARCH 8, 2013

## Recruits gain confidence, adaptability with sparring



Cpl. Liz Gleason

Recruits of Company K, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, prepare to fight during a sparring bout at Edson Range aboard Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif. Feb. 27, during the Crucible. Recruits must use their Marine Corps Martial Arts Program techniques they learned throughout recruit training.

BY CPL. LIZ GLEASON  
Chevron staff

After 61 training days of overcoming mental and physical challenges, recruits of Company K, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion finally made it to the culminating event of recruit training, the Crucible.

During the 54-hour training event, recruits face stress and fatigue during different events, some individual and others requiring teamwork.

After a safety brief given by the instructors, recruits helped one another suit up with gloves, head protection and groin protection, preparing them for body sparring at Edson Range aboard Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif.

Although the recruits have never sparred during recruit training, they have been introduced to the Marine Corps Martial Arts Program during Phase One.

They have continued to learn and reinforce basic self-defense techniques, such as proper stance,

see SPAR ▶ 2

## Weekly haircuts create uniformity

BY CPL. LIZ GLEASON  
Chevron staff

The line was out the door as recruits from Company B, 1st Recruit Training Battalion, waited their turn to sit in the barber's chair aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego Feb. 12.

Within hours of arriving aboard the depot, recruits receive their first buzz-cut, just one step in the transformation of becoming United States Marines.

“I remember the first haircut I got here



Cpl. Liz Gleason

A recruit with Company B, 1st RTBn, receives his weekly buzz-cut aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego Feb. 12. Haircuts are just one piece of an overall professional appearance recruits learn from their drill instructors.

was quick but it wasn't too bad,” said recruit Maximilian Musick, Plt. 1027, Co. B, 1st RTBn.

Getting a short haircut wasn't something new for Musick who comes from a family of military tradition. Musick dreamt of becoming a Marine since he was young, so he wore his hair as a high and tight prior to enlisting.

A high and tight is a traditional military hair cut that is characterized by a high fade up to about the temples where the hair is a bit longer.

Recruits receive buzz-cuts, very short almost shaved hair all over, until they reach the end of recruit training.

“It takes away the part of the physical individualism that they have,” said Sgt. Christopher Bess, drill instructor, Plt. 1027, Co. B, 1st RTBn. “Individualism causes them to not want to work together and focus on proving themselves, so when we cut off their hair and they all look the same they'll start to act the same. It also helps them grow as a team.”

Every week during their stay on the depot, recruits are marched to the barber shop where they receive a quick haircut. While breaking down individualism is one of the most important reasons recruits get weekly haircuts, they are also practical.

“It's important to get our hair cut every week because it helps with the platoon's appearance and hygiene,” said Musick. “It also keeps the platoon looking uniform. If we all looked different it would be harder to work together because we'd judge each other by our appearances but since we all look the same we can't pick each other apart.”

Although this was only their third haircut, Recruits of Co. B seemed to have the routine down as they filed in and out of the barber shop. While they waited for their turn, they took the

see HAIRCUTS ▶ 2



Lance Cpl. Pedro Cardenas

A recruit of Company I, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, receives his rifle aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego Feb. 11. Recruits must know how to properly handle the M16 A4 service rifle, and must memorize its unique serial number.

## Co. I recruits issued M16

BY LANCE CPL. PEDRO CARDENAS  
Chevron staff

The recruits of Company I, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, were issued M16-A4 service rifles with Rifle Combat Optics aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, Feb. 11.

Recruits are issued rifles a day prior to their first official day of training, also known as TD-1, signifying that training is about to begin. Throughout training, recruits will use their rifles to learn the fundamentals of marksmanship in order to qualify on the rifle range and learn discipline and obedience through basic drill movements.

“We teach them the parts of the weapon, how to break it down, how to clean it and its safety rules. You have to give it to them early on in training that way you can reinforce it all the way up until the recruits start shooting live rounds,” said Sgt. Brandon T. Cox, drill instructor, Platoon 3203, Co. I, 3rd RTBn. “It gives them confidence in handling the weapon and knowing the weapon inside and out.”

Traditionally, every Marine learned marksmanship with iron

see RIFLES ▶ 2



Lance Cpl. Pedro Cardenas

Recruits of Company I, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, stand at "port arms" after being issued their rifles aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego Feb. 11. Issuing of rifle is done a day prior to the start of Training Day 1.

#### RIFLES ◀ 1

sights, metal alignment aids in the front and rear of the rifle. Iron sights help Marines aim on a target and to make adjustments for wind age and elevation.

For the past several months, recruit training has transitioned from iron sights to RCOs much like the operating forces. RCOs are advanced gun sight scopes with amplification that magnify targets to four times their normal size-- making it an easier task to acquire and hit the target.

Marines qualify every fiscal year at

the rifle range using rifles with RCOs to qualify. Thus, other reasons to get recruits accustomed to RCOs during training are for them to gain practice and confidence.

"The good thing about it is that RCOs are used in the fleet, so it should be what recruits are trained on," said Cox. "It's like sports, the more you practice and the more you know the ins and outs of it, the better off you are going to be."

Regardless of the aids recruits are using in recruit training to fire their weapons, the fundamentals of marksmanship will still be the same.

"As far as the fundamentals of actually firing the weapon itself they are all the same," said Cox. "The only difference the sight picture is going to be magnified. Recruits still learn the fundamentals of "iron sights" which makes them a better asset to their unit."

Although rifle issue is complete, recruits of Co. I still have a tough eight weeks ahead of them in recruit training. Whether recruits have had experience with weapons or not, they will have the help of their drill instructors to guide them in every phase of training.

#### SPAR ◀ 1

blocking and striking throughout training.

There are five belts in MCMAP: tan, grey, green, brown, and black. Tan belt is the first of the five belts and is crucial to laying the foundation on which Marines build on as they move higher in MCMAP.

"Body sparring is part of the MCMAP tan belt syllabus," said Sgt. Joseph Stoker, drill instructor, Platoon 3235, Co. K, 3rd RTBn. "It is essential in introducing recruits into interpersonal violence. A lot of recruits come to recruit training and haven't seen or experienced a fight; it gets them used to throwing and taking a punch."

As they enter the ring, they must rely on the knowledge and skills they've accumulated throughout training to defend themselves and defeat their opponent.

"It benefits recruits because it not only teaches them how to punch and kick, it also teaches them the disciplines that go along with (MCMAP); character, mental and physical disciplines," explained Stoker. "With the techniques that they've learned comes great responsibility to use them wisely because they are now trained to utilize the techniques and will be held accountable if they're used in an improper manner."

Sparring not only teaches recruits how to fight and defend themselves, it reinforces the self-confidence they've gained during their stay at the Depot.

As they finished sparring, feeling more confident, Co. K moved on to their next event motivated and knowing they were closer to earning their Eagle, Globe and Anchors and the title "Marine."



Cpl. Liz Gleason

A recruit of Company K, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, waits for his turn in the ring at Edson Range aboard Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif. Feb. 27. Recruits wear proper sparring gear to prevent injury.

#### HAIRCUTS ◀ 1

down time to further prepare themselves for the upcoming events and challenges they'll face during the grueling training schedule.

"While recruits wait they aren't allowed

to talk, they stand up straight at attention with eyes forward," said Musick. "They study their Marine Corps knowledge like history, uniform regulations and review what we've learned so far. Sometimes we study drill cards to prepare for final drill."

Recruits of Co. B are still at the beginning of their journey in becoming United States Marines, but through hard work and perseverance they will see a day where they no longer have to get a buzz-cut at the barber shop.

#### BRIEFS

##### Tuition assistance suspended

The Marine Corps has suspended the Tuition Assistance Program until further notice.

The suspension went into effect Monday.

For information call the Lifelong Learning Education Center at (619) 524-1275.

##### Spring Ahead

Daylight Savings Time begins this weekend on the second Sunday in March.

Clocks and watches and other time keeping devices, should be set one-hour ahead at 2 a.m., Sunday morning.

Daylight Savings Time will end this year on Sunday, Nov. 3, when clocks will "Fall back" to their pre-Daylight Savings Time settings.

##### Snowboarding/Skiing at Big Bear

The depot's Single Marine Program plans an overnight Snowboarding/Skiing trip to Big Bear, departing MCRD at noon, March 15.

The trip includes transportation, lodging, lift tickets and three meals for \$75 (\$100 includes ski/board rental).

Cost of the trip for SMP non-members is \$125 and includes transportation, lodging, lift ticket and meals.

Registration deadline is March 1, 2013. Space is limited. Sign-up today.

For details, registration and more information contact Josh Davis, SMP Coordinator at (619) 524-8240, or via e-mail at davisjp@usmc-mccs.org.

##### Playground grand re-opening

The brand new accessible depot playground has its grand opening ceremony Monday at 10:30 a.m.

All depot personnel and their families (especially kids) are welcome to attend and be the first to test out the brand new facility.

The playground is directly across from the MCRD Marina/Boathouse.

##### Big Bear overnight trip

The Single Marine Program overnight snowboard/ski trip to Big Bear Ski Area leaves at noon March 15.

The cost of the trip, \$75 for members and \$125 for non-members, includes transportation, lodging, lift tickets and three meals.

An extra \$25 covers ski and snowboard rentals.

Space is limited; sign-up today.

For more information and registration contact: Josh Davis, SMP Coordinator at (619) 524-8240, or via e-mail at davisjp@usmc-mccs.org.

##### Saint Patrick's Day Fun Run

A 5K Saint Patrick's Day Fun Run is scheduled for March 15.

The CG Cup event begins at 1 p.m., at the depot's Recreation Center north parking lot (Building 590).

Guests of authorized patrons must register on the day of the event at 10:30 a.m., (\$10 per guest).

There will be food and beverages, music and entertainment. For more information call (619) 524-8083.

##### Tax service open

The tax service trailer is located between the Main Exchange (Building 11), and Starbucks (Building 10).

The service is open Tuesdays through Saturdays 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Call 725-6396 for an appointment, or stop by the trailer.

##### Send briefs to:

rdsd\_pao@usmc.mil. The Chevron staff reserves the right to publish only those briefs that comply with Department of Defense regulations and the standards of the U.S. Government.

## Around the depot

This week the Chevron asks: "What advice would you give to a new Marine?"



"Don't get complacent and follow the rules." Lance Cpl. Branden Walsh, armorer, Service Company, Headquarters and Service Battalion



"Take initiative and always strive for the best." Lance Cpl. Whitney Morris, administrative clerk, Service Company, Headquarters and Service Battalion



"Be knowledgeable in your MOS but also other areas of the Marine Corps." Lance Cpl. Shelby Osborne, supply clerk, Service Company, Headquarters and Service Battalion

## Center of Attention



Lance Cpl. Pedro Cardenas

Members of Independent Therapy Dogs, Incorporated attended the Exceptional Family Member Program hosted by Marine Corps Community Services aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego Feb. 23. Children attending the expo had the opportunity to pet a pair of therapy dogs.

## Showing the Gold



Cpl. Walter D. Marino II

Joe Jackson, a retired Marine with the Montford Point Marine Association, answer questions from recruits aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego Feb. 21. Jackson is a recipient of the Congressional Gold Medal, an award given to persons who have impacted American history and culture through their achievement.



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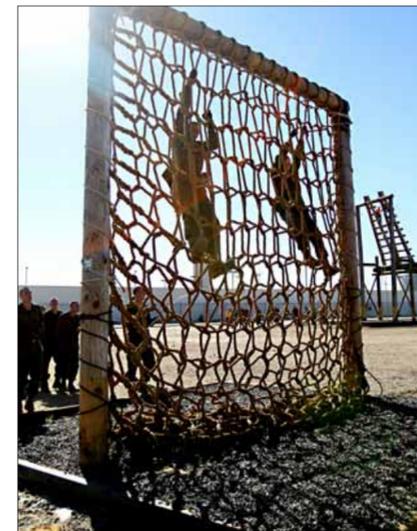
Cpl. Liz Gleason

Company E recruits follow a drill instructor as he sprints to the next obstacle while running the Marine Corps Recruit Depot Confidence Course Feb. 26. The Confidence Course is designed to physically challenge recruits and build confidence in their physical abilities.



Cpl. Liz Gleason

A Company E recruit does a pull-up after completing the Arm Stretchers, a Confidence Course obstacle.



Cpl. Liz Gleason

Company E recruits climb the rope wall during the Confidence Course.



Cpl. Liz Gleason

Company E recruits practice Marine Corps Martial Arts Program techniques after completing the Confidence Course.



Cpl. Liz Gleason

Two Company E recruits climb the Stairway to Heaven, an obstacle on the depot's Confidence Course.

# Company E recruits conquer fears, gain confidence

BY CPL. LIZ GLEASON  
Chevron staff

Throughout recruit training, recruits face many challenges that break them down and build them up. They learn valuable lessons individually and as a team; one significant event is the Confidence Course.

After a safety brief given by Instructional Training Command, Support Battalion, staff and a demonstration of events by drill instructors,

recruits of Company E, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion, split into teams and sprinted alongside their drill instructor to their first obstacle during the Confidence Course aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego Feb. 26.

"The Confidence Course does what its name says; builds confidence," said Recruit Ryan Reichlin, Platoon 2106, Co. E, 2nd RTBn. "It challenges you to do things that are hard and intimidating. You might struggle, but with the proper technique you can get through them and when you finish it helps build you up."

The course consists of different

obstacles designed to physically challenge recruits. Some of the main obstacles include the Stairway to Heaven, a 30-foot tall structure that resembles a ladder; the A-frame, a structure that starts with a 15-foot rope recruits have to climb to get to horizontal logs, then they must balance and walk across the logs to get the "A" shaped ladder that they climb to get to the 30-ft rope where they will slide down to finish; and slide for

life, a 25-foot tower recruits climb onto a platform where they descend on a 90-foot cable to the ground above a 4-foot-deep pool of water.

Drill instructors stay with the recruits throughout the event ensuring they use proper safety and techniques, maintain their volume and intensity, and to help motivate them to push through the pain and fatigue, according to

Reichlin.

When a challenge gets to be too much, Reichlin keeps an open mind and takes on the obstacle with a new perspective and a different technique.

Recruits were either running in place waiting for their turn, completing the obstacle, practicing Marine Corps Martial Arts Program techniques after overcoming the obstacle or sprinting to the next challenge.

Recruits participate in the Confidence

Course on Training Day 18, near the end of phase 1, in order to reinforce the foundation of self-confidence, intensity, and teamwork. This is important as they prepare to enter Phase 2, where they will be faced with greater challenges, according to Staff Sgt. Steven Jackman, senior drill instructor, Plt. 2106, Co. E 2nd RTBn.

"It helps them overcome certain fears or insecurities they might have," said Jackman.

"They come to realize that through proper technique and teamwork they can make it through anything."

Although the recruits of Co. E are still young in training, with every day that passes and every event they conquer they strengthen the foundation that will help them on their journey to earning the title "United States Marine." The foundation they build at recruit training will also stay with them throughout their Marine Corps careers.



Cpl. Liz Gleason

Recruits of Company E, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion, participated in the Arm Walk obstacle during the Confidence Course aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, Feb. 26. After completing the obstacle, recruits practice Marine Corps Martial Arts Program techniques.



Cpl. Liz Gleason

Some Company E recruits lose their grip and get wet during the Slide for Life, a Confidence Course obstacle.

# Calif. native alters lifestyle to join Corps

BY CPL. WALTER D. MARINO II  
Chevron staff

A little more than one year ago Jonathan Gomez entered into his local Marine recruiting office 112 pounds over the maximum limit. While most individuals would walk away discouraged, Gomez chose to set out on a lifestyle change which resulted in his acceptance into Marine Corps recruit training.

Gomez, now a recruit with Platoon 3231, Company K, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, explained he wanted to be a Marine but couldn't do any pull-ups, struggled with sit-ups and struggled overall with anything physical.

Gomez, standing 5 feet 8 inches tall, started his journey at 280 pounds. After losing 40 pounds, Gomez went back to his recruiter to discuss his progress.

Gomez learned he would have to lose more weight and was motivated when his recruiter asked him, "How bad do you want it?"

He started working out five to six days a week for 45 minutes to an hour and half and cut out sweets and soda from his diet.

Gomez did this while working close to full-time and attending college full-time.

"It was tough on a day-to-day basis. Getting up at 5 a.m. to go for a run before work, watching everything I eat and trying to get things in routine with school," said, Gomez, an Indio, Calif., native.

When Gomez entered recruit training at 180 pounds, the self-discipline didn't end there. He lost another 12 pounds and his discipline was noticed by fellow recruits and drill instructors.

Recruit Luis A. Alvarez, Plt.

3231, Co. K, 3rd RTBn, said he remembered Gomez prior to recruit training and didn't recognize him in the platoon.

"He was a beefy guy when I first met him," said Alvarez. "I didn't recognize him in recruit training because he had lost that much weight."

Alvarez beamed when talking about Gomez's work ethic and mentioned a time Gomez stayed up all night to make sure his fellow recruits' gear was in order.

Staff Sgt. Keith Pryor Jr., senior drill instructor, Plt. 3231, Co. K, 3rd RTBn, said he never personally had any weight issues, but believes weight can be dropped with hard work and dedication.

"But—as far as 112 pounds in a year; that's a special kind of dedication," said Pryor. If someone is dedicated like that, you know you can depend on them to get any mission accomplished."

Pryor said he would go as far to say Gomez is the most disciplined in the platoon.

"In the chow hall I had to send him back because he didn't have enough food on his plate," said Pryor.

Alvarez noticed Gomez's discipline in the chow hall as well.

"When the other recruits were getting dessert Gomez was getting salad," said Alvarez.

Currently, Gomez is near completion of recruit training and said he is looking forward to testing his newfound athleticism in physical events that raise money for cancer and disabilities.

For other individuals setting out to conquer the same mountains as Gomez, he says, "If you want it badly enough, you'll be able to do it with power and faith."



Cpl. Walter D. Marino II

Recruit Jonathan Gomez, Plt. 3231, Company K, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, awaits his turn to rappel down a Marine tower aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego. Gomez lost more than a hundred pounds in his year long journey towards becoming a Marine.

## Sgt. Maj. Willie T. Ward

### Parade Reviewing Officer

Sergeant Major Willie T. Ward enlisted in the Marine Corps on September 18, 1986. He graduated recruit training at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, Calif.

Upon completion of recruit training, Ward was assigned the Military Occupational Specialty of 3531, basic motor vehicle operator.

Ward served with 3rd Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment on Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C., from 1986 to 1990. During this assignment he was meritoriously promoted to the rank of corporal and attended Noncommissioned Officer School at Camp Lejeune.

From 1990 to 1994, Ward was then assigned to Brigade Service Support Group-1, MCB Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii, where he attended multiple career enhancing schools and was selected as "NCO of the Quarter" for the 1st Marine Expeditionary Brigade in December of 1991.

In April of 1994, Ward was

assigned to drill instructor duty at MCRD San Diego, where he served as a drill instructor and senior drill instructor from 1994 to 1996.

From 1996 to 2000, Ward served as an instructor, platoon sergeant and drill master for Officer Candidate School, at MCB Quantico, Va. During his tour at OCS, Ward was meritoriously promoted to staff

sergeant.

After four cycles as an instructor, Ward was selected to serve as a platoon sergeant and, upon completion of one cycle as a platoon sergeant, he was selected to serve as the battalion drill master.

From 2000 to 2002, Ward was assigned to serve as the assistant Marine officer instructor at Morehouse College and Georgia

Tech.

In March 2005, Ward was frocked to first sergeant and reported to 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion where he deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom 8-2.

From May 2009 to April 2012, Ward served as the sergeant major for Recruiting Station Los Angeles, until his current selection to the 12th Marine Corps District

sergeant major.

Ward's personal decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal, the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal in lieu of third award, Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, Combat Action Ribbon, Recruiting Duty Ribbon and Marine Corps Drill Instructor Ribbon in lieu of second award.

*"First and foremost, I'd like to say congratulations, Marines! You are now a member of the world's most elite military service. I am honored to be your parade reviewing officer and as such I'd like to share a few words with you. It has been over 26 years since I was in your shoes walking across the parade deck, and I will tell you that I truly believe that the decision to become a United States Marine is not just a decision, but a calling. A calling in which many others cannot and will not be able to relate to. It is the reason why so many refer to us as "the few and the proud," "teufel hunden," or "the nation's 911 service." You are going to be tested in ways you never thought possible*

*and the challenges will be difficult, but if you have faith and believe in God, Country, Corps and your leadership, you will be on the right path. A path that will not come without its share of temptation, challenge, confusion, and risk, but if you are Semper Fidelis, you will endure the test and remain part of the best! As you depart the recruit depot and prepare to join your respective units, remember that you are a part of an organization that is rich in history, admired and respected around the world, and unmatched in its ability to accomplish the mission! It is with distinct pleasure that I say to you, "congratulations, and go forward and do great things, Marines!"*





**Platoon 3235** COMPANY HONOR MAN Lance Cpl. A. S. Peel Orange County, Calif. Recruited by Sgt. N. Holmes  
**Platoon 3229** SERIES HONOR MAN Pfc. K. P. Ahoilei Yorba Linda, Calif. Recruited by Sgt. M. Hoover  
**Platoon 3220** PLATOON HONOR MAN Pfc. D. W. Karkow Dubuque, Iowa Recruited by Staff Sgt. J. Benne  
**Platoon 3231** PLATOON HONOR MAN Pfc. Z. T. Hale Muncie, Ind. Recruited by Staff Sgt. S. Wilson  
**Platoon 3233** PLATOON HONOR MAN Pfc. D. A. Banduk Santa Clarita, Calif. Recruited by Sgt. J. Ruiz  
**Platoon 3234** PLATOON HONOR MAN Pfc. Z. T. Sparkman Norman, Okla. Recruited by Staff Sgt. K. Hagedorn  
**Platoon 3234** HIGH SHOOTER (339) Pfc. C. J. Murray Bedford, Texas Marksmanship Instructor Sgt. V. Ramirez  
**Platoon 3231** HIGH PFT (300) Pfc. J. A. Joaquin Bourbonnais, Ill. Recruited by Staff Sgt. W. Huntley



# KILO COMPANY

3rd RECRUIT TRAINING BATTALION



Commanding Officer  
Sergeant Major  
Battalion Drill Master

Lt. Col. M. A. Reiley  
Sgt. Maj. E. Gonzalez  
Staff Sgt. C. M. Battiest

<b>COMPANY K</b> Commanding Officer Capt. W. R. Stiner Company First Sergeant 1st Sgt. J. Melendez	<b>SERIES 3229</b> Series Commander Capt. K. S. Solmonson Chief Drill Instructor Gunnery Sgt. M. Ramirez	<b>PLATOON 3229</b> Senior Drill Instructor Sgt. M. A. Peters Drill Instructors Sgt. J. T. Bailey Sgt. H. Ramirez Sgt. R. J. Robles Sgt. J. Silva	<b>PLATOON 3230</b> Senior Drill Instructor Staff Sgt. D. B. Jolly Drill Instructors Staff Sgt. R. A. Castaneda Staff Sgt. A. K. Givings Staff Sgt. J. D. Klein Sgt. A. J. Array	<b>PLATOON 3231</b> Senior Drill Instructor Staff Sgt. K. Pryor Jr. Drill Instructors Staff Sgt. T. M. Gerberding Sgt. M. Rodriguez Sgt. P. A. White
	<b>SERIES 3233</b> Series Commander Capt. W. Schmitt Chief Drill Instructor Gunnery Sgt. W. Morris	<b>PLATOON 3233</b> Senior Drill Instructor Staff Sgt. E. Mendoza Drill Instructors Sgt. R. M. Krochmolny Sgt. R. Luna Sgt. E. A. Orellana Sgt. M. Rosales	<b>PLATOON 3234</b> Senior Drill Instructor Gunnery Sgt. J. D. Kiesow Drill Instructors Gunnery Sgt. J. L. Buckingham Gunnery Sgt. B. G. Jean Gunnery Sgt. J. M. Pocaigue	<b>PLATOON 3235</b> Senior Drill Instructor Staff Sgt. J. Dodson Drill Instructors Staff Sgt. O. V. Gordon Sgt. J. B. Stoker Sgt. A. Zabala

\* Indicates Meritorious Promotion

- PLATOON 3229**  
 Pvt. J. A. Abello  
 Pvt. J. N. Accola  
 Pvt. R. V. Aguilar  
 \*Pfc. K. P. Ahoilei  
 Pvt. T. B. Ameen  
 Pvt. J. T. Ayers  
 Pvt. S. C. Bammes  
 Pvt. L. T. Barnes  
 \*Pfc. C. N. Beaver  
 Pvt. M. A. Bejarano  
 Pvt. D. Beknazarov  
 Pvt. R. D. Breault  
 Pfc. R. J. Breese  
 Pfc. B. J. Briggman  
 Pvt. C. A. Bunker  
 Pvt. R. Cabrera  
 Pfc. E. Calderon  
 Pfc. J. J. Cannon  
 Pfc. M. E. Casas  
 Pfc. D. A. Chanthapathet  
 Pvt. B. S. Chapman  
 Pfc. M. C. Coles  
 Pvt. S. A. Cortez  
 Pvt. D. M. Crittendon  
 Pvt. J. S. Crowell  
 Pfc. R. B. Cunningham  
 Pfc. R. C. De Leon  
 Pvt. M. A. Durham  
 Pfc. L. Escamilla  
 Pvt. A. M. Estrada  
 Pfc. J. Flores III  
 Pvt. H. Gaona  
 Pvt. J. F. Garcia  
 Pvt. M. R. Garcia  
 \*Pfc. C. J. Gasaway  
 Pfc. D. M. Godbersen  
 Pfc. J. H. Graham  
 Pvt. M. A. Greving  
 Pvt. J. D. Guidry  
 Pfc. G. Gutierrez-Hermosillo  
 Pfc. C. J. Hamby  
 Pvt. D. J. Healy  
 Pvt. T. B. Herring  
 Pvt. B. W. Hershberger  
 Pvt. D. Z. Hohn  
 Pvt. T. A. Holland  
 \*Pfc. J. J. Hopman  
 Pvt. W. V. Hughes  
 \*Pfc. M. S. Jacobs  
 Pfc. J. M. Jeffers  
 Pvt. D. P. Jemkins  
 Pfc. J. P. Johnstone  
 Pvt. H. J. Kay  
 Pvt. W. M. Khalid  
 Pvt. J. G. Kikta  
 Pvt. J. J. Larson-Lind  
 Pvt. L. A. Leos  
 Pvt. T. V. Lovercamp  
 Pfc. L. A. Manor  
 Pvt. N. P. Marshall

- PLATOON 3230**  
 Pvt. J. T. Agness  
 \*Pfc. F. Arroyo  
 Pfc. C. M. Baker  
 Pvt. S. T. Bandachit  
 Pvt. B. L. Baur  
 Pvt. D. M. Bergman  
 Pvt. D. H. Blankenship  
 Pvt. S. R. Boehm  
 Pvt. J. D. Boudreau  
 Pvt. B. G. Brown  
 Pfc. I. M. Butler  
 Pvt. S. C. Butts  
 Pfc. M. A. Cantu  
 Pvt. L. S. Carrillo  
 Pfc. J. M. Carrillo  
 Pvt. M. J. Carter  
 \*Pfc. R. Cervantes III  
 Pvt. A. K. Chanda  
 \*Pfc. J. M. Clark  
 Pvt. B. J. Couture  
 Pvt. L. L. Daniel  
 Pvt. J. S. Davis  
 Pfc. N. M. Douglas  
 \*Pfc. T. R. Drader  
 Pvt. A. Duran  
 Pvt. J. B. Espinoza  
 Pvt. N. A. Fenley  
 Pvt. P. G. Flynn Jr.  
 Pvt. C. A. Ford  
 Pfc. J. Gallegos  
 Pvt. G. A. Gould Jr.  
 Pfc. G. W. Grabarkewitz  
 Pfc. B. A. Greendahl II  
 Pfc. D. S. Guthrie  
 Pfc. B. N. Guzman  
 Pvt. J. M. Hamblett  
 Pfc. E. Hernandez  
 Pfc. M. A. Hill  
 Pfc. M. M. Hill  
 Pfc. J. M. Hollis  
 Pfc. D. W. Karkow  
 Pfc. N. J. Kelleher  
 Pvt. S. M. Kvapil  
 Pfc. N. R. Layng  
 Pfc. J. J. Leiter  
 Pvt. C. A. Leon  
 Pfc. J. D. Levy  
 Pvt. A. M. Lilleberg  
 Pvt. Z. W. Lovato  
 Pvt. A. C. Manthe  
 Pfc. A. F. Martin  
 Pfc. F. I. Martinez  
 Pfc. G. Martinez  
 Pfc. C. J. McClintock  
 Pfc. D. D. McCormick  
 Pvt. S. D. McNeil  
 Pvt. C. C. Meindle  
 Pvt. E. Mendez  
 Pvt. A. Mendoza  
 Pvt. M. A. Mendoza  
 Pfc. P. J. Merenowicz  
 Pvt. S. D. Miller  
 Pfc. I. A. Montelongo

- PLATOON 3231**  
 \*Pfc. L. A. Alvarez  
 Pfc. J. R. Arceo  
 Pvt. S. J. Bernal  
 Pvt. B. A. Bianco  
 Pvt. D. J. Bonds  
 \*Pfc. D. L. Brown  
 Pvt. L. V. Burgmeier  
 \*Pfc. B. R. Burrill  
 Pvt. F. A. Campbell III  
 Pfc. R. G. Chase  
 Pvt. T. C. Claunch  
 Pvt. I. S. Crampton II  
 Pvt. J. J. Cruz  
 Pvt. A. De La Fuente  
 Pvt. J. C. Delgadillo  
 Pvt. C. H. Dewlaney  
 \*Pfc. J. S. Duvall  
 Pvt. A. D. Eisenhauer  
 Pvt. C. Elizarraras  
 Pvt. D. H. Ellenberg  
 Pvt. N. M. Elliott  
 Pvt. G. T. Ferguson  
 Pvt. O. Flores  
 \*Pfc. T. R. Fortune III  
 Pvt. C. M. Freeman  
 Pvt. L. J. Frias  
 Pvt. R. A. Gandarilla  
 Pvt. O. Gil  
 Pvt. J. R. Golda  
 Pfc. J. Gomez  
 Pvt. D. J. Grubbs  
 Pvt. C. A. Gundler  
 Pvt. K. L. Gunnawa  
 Pfc. Z. T. Hale  
 Pvt. B. S. Hall  
 Pfc. T. D. Hughey  
 Pfc. J. A. Jaquin  
 Pvt. Z. A. Kiley  
 Pvt. J. R. Kleinrichert  
 Pvt. D. A. Klun  
 Pvt. J. A. Knight  
 Pvt. R. J. Kulpa  
 Pvt. J. T. Lingafelt  
 Pvt. R. Lopez  
 Pvt. O. A. Lorenzo-Ponce De Leon  
 Pvt. J. Magana  
 Pvt. M. A. Manues  
 \*Pfc. T. R. Marquardt  
 Pfc. K. B. McCormick  
 Pvt. J. A. Milbauer  
 Pvt. M. Medina Jr.  
 Pvt. N. A. Miranda Jr.  
 Pfc. B. T. Mitchell  
 Pfc. G. H. Moreira  
 Pfc. N. H. Nguyen  
 Pvt. C. R. Olsen  
 Pfc. V. A. Palafox  
 Pfc. T. W. Patterson  
 Pvt. W. J. Perkins  
 Pvt. B. L. Phomboutdy  
 Pvt. E. Piza  
 Pvt. L. A. Prado

- PLATOON 3233**  
 \*Pfc. J. A. Adler  
 Pfc. H. Alvarez  
 Pvt. L. Arcos-Martinez  
 Pvt. P. O. Ashton  
 Pvt. D. Bai  
 Pfc. D. A. Banduk  
 Pvt. D. D. Barcinas  
 Pvt. M. Catalan-Hernandez  
 Pfc. W. M. Christie  
 Pvt. J. T. Dyer  
 Pfc. A. G. Gamboz  
 Pvt. J. J. Garcia  
 Pfc. N. S. Gard  
 Pvt. C. A. Giroux  
 Pvt. A. E. Gray  
 Pvt. D. D. Haley  
 Pvt. J. T. Huffman  
 Pvt. E. J. Jacques  
 Pvt. D. J. Long Jr.  
 Pvt. D. H. Ellenberg  
 \*Pfc. J. C. Lozier  
 Pvt. R. L. Madrigal  
 Pvt. E. G. Manasala Jr.  
 Pfc. B. A. Martini  
 Pvt. M. A. McCoy  
 Pfc. R. Melchor  
 Pvt. C. R. Mersino  
 Pvt. B. G. Michael  
 Pvt. N. T. Mile  
 \*Pfc. M. L. Mitchell  
 Pvt. D. J. Grubbs  
 Pvt. C. J. Oliver  
 \*Pfc. J. B. Perez-Quevedo  
 Pfc. J. B. Pharis  
 Pvt. A. D. Robinson  
 Pvt. R. J. Rolbiecki  
 Pvt. S. J. Rigsby  
 Pvt. T. J. Rollings  
 Pvt. J. E. Schlosser  
 Pvt. A. J. Schulte  
 Pvt. B. D. Soto  
 Pvt. K. R. Stanton Jr.  
 Pvt. L. S. Still  
 \*Pfc. C. D. Stulce  
 Pfc. R. H. Talley  
 Pvt. J. Magana  
 Pvt. M. A. Manues  
 \*Pfc. T. R. Marquardt  
 Pfc. K. B. McCormick  
 Pvt. J. A. Milbauer  
 Pvt. M. Medina Jr.  
 Pvt. N. A. Miranda Jr.  
 Pfc. B. T. Mitchell  
 Pfc. G. H. Moreira  
 Pfc. N. H. Nguyen  
 Pvt. C. R. Olsen  
 Pfc. V. A. Palafox  
 Pfc. T. W. Patterson  
 Pvt. W. J. Perkins  
 Pvt. B. L. Phomboutdy  
 Pvt. E. Piza  
 Pvt. L. A. Prado

- PLATOON 3234**  
 Pfc. C. J. Murray  
 Pvt. A. N. Naiim  
 Pvt. J. L. Nelson  
 Pfc. B. T. O'Connell  
 Pvt. P. E. Oja  
 Pvt. J. Ortiz  
 Pfc. C. E. Ortiz  
 Pfc. D. J. Pace  
 Pfc. W. G. Padilla  
 Pfc. G. A. Pecina  
 Pfc. R. M. Pera  
 Pfc. R. S. Perez  
 Pvt. Z. T. Peters  
 Pvt. M. L. Pope Jr.  
 Pvt. D. V. Puterbaugh  
 \*Pfc. J. F. Ramirez  
 Pfc. M. W. Rampey  
 Pvt. T. G. Retzlöff  
 Pvt. K. D. Riggle  
 Pvt. C. M. Roberts  
 Pfc. S. T. Rodda  
 Pvt. L. G. Rogers  
 Pfc. W. E. Ross  
 Pfc. D. Rubio  
 Pvt. E. G. Salamanca  
 Pvt. T. D. Sandefur  
 Pvt. J. A. Schmitt  
 Pfc. S. J. Schoemann  
 Pvt. S. T. Schreyer  
 Pfc. N. R. Segura  
 Pvt. K. J. Seymour-Pitchell  
 Pvt. N. A. Shamrell  
 Pvt. L. E. Shumar  
 Pvt. J. L. Sloat  
 Pvt. D. D. Smith  
 Pvt. C. E. Snyder  
 Pfc. R. M. So  
 Pvt. T. E. Solis  
 Pvt. J. Sotelo  
 \*Pfc. Z. T. Sparkman  
 Pvt. H. R. Spears  
 Pvt. J. M. Steinke  
 Pfc. A. M. Stelpflug  
 Pvt. C. R. Stevenson  
 \*Pfc. T. F. Summerfield  
 Pfc. M. J. Terry  
 Pvt. D. Thang  
 Pvt. L. E. Thigpen  
 Pvt. R. L. Thomas  
 Pvt. T. M. Thomas  
 \*Pfc. B. M. Thuline  
 Pfc. J. M. Timmer  
 Pfc. J. N. Todora  
 Pfc. J. R. Tovar  
 Pvt. J. S. Trinidad  
 Pvt. J. P. Tulachka  
 Pvt. D. T. Vankeulen  
 Pvt. B. D. Villa  
 Pfc. B. Vue  
 Pfc. J. R. Williams  
 Pfc. N. A. Williams  
 Pfc. T. J. Williams  
 Pvt. J. J. Woodward

- PLATOON 3235**  
 Pfc. F. Alaniz  
 Pfc. C. J. Alden  
 Pvt. M. R. Benavides  
 Pvt. D. J. Biewer  
 Pfc. J. G. Brons  
 Pvt. M. T. Dearman  
 Pvt. J. D. Emert  
 Pfc. J. A. Flores  
 Pvt. K. M. Grieve  
 Pfc. J. A. Grinnell  
 Pvt. J. J. Groh  
 Pvt. B. T. Hase  
 Pvt. M. M. Hollocker  
 Pvt. J. D. Ibarra Jr.  
 Pfc. T. R. Jones  
 Pfc. S. W. Klein  
 Pvt. M. S. Madsen  
 Pfc. J. C. Martin  
 Pfc. A. M. Martinez  
 Pfc. A. G. Martinez-Gutierrez  
 Pvt. D. O. Matheny  
 \*Pfc. A. G. Meagher  
 Pfc. M. A. Mejia  
 Pfc. M. P. Montespina  
 Pvt. J. A. Moreno  
 Pvt. M. M. Moreno  
 Pvt. C. M. Morgan  
 Pvt. R. M. Nedlic  
 Pvt. S. T. Nelson  
 Pfc. M. J. Nevarez  
 Pfc. S. M. Nguyen  
 Pfc. J. C. Nielsen  
 Pvt. J. V. Nieto Jr.  
 Pvt. C. R. Norman  
 Pfc. J. S. Paul  
 Pvt. B. J. Pedroza  
 \*Lance Cpl. A. S. Peel  
 \*Pfc. J. W. Pettigrew  
 Pfc. W. T. Pharakis  
 \*Pfc. F. A. Purvis  
 Pvt. L. A. Ramirez  
 Pfc. A. Revilla  
 \*Pfc. C. D. Rinehart  
 Pvt. J. Rios  
 Pvt. M. A. Rodriguez Jr.  
 Pvt. G. E. Rodriguez  
 Pvt. C. A. Ruiz  
 Pvt. J. A. Rutoski  
 Pfc. A. Salazar-Garcia  
 Pvt. A. L. Santiago  
 Pvt. T. L. Scriven  
 \*Pfc. J. V. Selsia  
 Pvt. W. E. Self  
 Pfc. D. N. Serna  
 Pfc. E. S. Sharpe  
 Pvt. A. G. Silva  
 Pvt. D. T. Sinclair  
 Pvt. A. D. Smith II  
 Pvt. C. M. Stokes Jr.  
 Pvt. C. V. Summers-Ramirez  
 Pfc. D. Williams  
 Pfc. L. R. Zuanich



Lance Cpl. Pedro Cardenas

A drill instructor, Staff Sgt. Jason R. Lansdon, from Co. I, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, inspects a recruit during senior drill instructor inspection aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego Mar. 1. Senior drill instructor inspection is the first inspection recruits undergo during recruit training.

## Co. I recruits experience first Marine Corps inspection

BY LANCE CPL. PEDRO  
CARDENAS  
Chevron staff

Recruits stood tall in formation at the position of attention. Their backs are straight and their hands are by their trouser seams while holding their rifles next to them. Their eyes are fixed as they patiently wait to be inspected by their drill instructor. Their uniforms are pressed and clean. They stand stiff, ready for inspection.

Recruits of Company I, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, were evaluated during a training requirement known as the Senior Drill Instructor inspection aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego Feb. 22.

During the previous few weeks the recruits were given a lot of information and this is the first test to show what they have learned.

Inspection begins when a drill instructor stands in front of a recruit. The recruit begins by performing “inspection arms,” a drill movement requiring recruits to inspect the chamber of their weapon to ensure it’s clear of ammunition and safe to handle. Then, the drill instructor grabs the rifle and thoroughly inspects it for cleanliness.

After inspecting the weapon, drill instructors begin to ask recruits various questions on Marine knowledge. Drill instructors look for the recruits to have bearing, discipline and confidence while answering each question. Finally, drill instructors inspect uniforms to make sure recruits know how to follow Marine Corps regulations.

During inspection recruits are graded on personal appearance, hygiene, weapon cleanliness and Marine Corps knowledge. Atten-

tion to detail is learned early in recruit training to give recruits a baseline for what gear inspections will be like during combat operations.

“Inspections are used to show what the platoon has learned, check uniforms, discipline and to get the recruits familiar with weapons maintenance and handling,” said Staff Sgt. Jason R. Lansdon, drill instructor, Plt. 3206, Co. I, 3rd RTBn. “Recruits worked for multiple hours on uniform preparation and weapons maintenance to get ready for this inspection.”

Marines are expected to be attentive to detail whether it be having a presentable uniform to or properly-functioning gear during combat operations inspections. Thus, practice is one reason for performing inspections early on training.

“Inspections are to show that we have learned something and that our drill instructors are doing their jobs,” said Recruit Nathan S. Trefethen, Plt. 3205, Co. I, RTBn. “This inspection will help us become more disciplined. It will also give us a great experience to carry over to other future inspections.”

During recruit training perfection is demanded of recruits. However, since perfection is impossible, recruits always have room for improvement. Some go the extra mile to stand out among the rest.

“I take time out of my sleep to prepare. I practice drill movements and study military knowledge,” said Trefethen, a Sacramento, Calif., native. “There are things we could improve on such as knowledge and drill.”

As with anything, performance will only improve through practice.

With senior drill instructor inspection now complete, recruits of Co. I still have a long road of challenges ahead of them

in recruit training. Attention to detail is not only expectation any more, but it is demanded. However, recruits will have their drill

instructors to help them earn the title of “United States Marines.”



Lance Cpl. Pedro Cardenas

A Co. I recruit performs the drill movement “order arms” during Senior Drill Instructor Inspection aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego Mar. 1. During inspection drill instructors cause stressful situations for recruits yet, they are expected to remain calm and in control.